

## II. Amendments to the Claims

Kindly cancel Claim 10, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Kindly amend Claims 1-8 as shown below, and add new claim 11.

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Claim 1 (currently amended) A multi-wavelength laser source (MWLS) system, comprising:

(a) first and second monochromatic lasers having first ( $f_1$ ) and second ( $f_2$ ) lasing frequencies, respectively;

(b) means for amplifying combined signals of said first and second lasers;

A (c) means for multiplying, using non-linear optical effects, the amplified combined signals to expand the coverage of the wavelength channels so as to yield comblike multi-channel WDM laser signals comprising a plurality of more than two channels separated from each other by a frequency equal to the difference between  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ .

Claim 2 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 1, said means for multiplying comprising a plurality of serially interconnected optical fiber sections each section having respective predetermined propagation characteristics for said amplified combined signals which

differ from respective predetermined propagation characteristics of any neighboring sections.

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Claim 3 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 2, said predetermined propagation characteristics being comprising propagation mode, dispersion, and length.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 3, said plurality of serially interconnected fiber sections being comprising five sections having lengths  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$ ,  $L_4$  and  $L_5$ , respectively,  $L_1$  being the first section, and  $L_5$  being the ~~last~~ fifth section.

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Claim 5 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 4, the third fiber section being comprising a single mode fiber (SMF) section.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 5, the first, second, fourth, and ~~fourth~~ fifth fiber ~~section being~~ sections comprising dispersion shifted fiber (DSF) sections.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The system as described in claim 6, in which  $L_1 = 1.1$  km,  $L_2 = 1.1$  km,  $L_3 = 20$  m,  $L_4 = 1$  km and  $L_5 = 1$  km.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 7, said ~~fine~~ five fiber ~~section~~, sections having associated dispersion ~~value~~ values,  $D_1$  to  $D_5$  as follows:  $D_1 = -0.399$ ;  $D_2 = 0.402$ ;  $D_3 = 16$ ;  $D_4 = 0.402$  and  $D_5 = -0.399$ , all in units of ps/km/nm.

Claim 9 (original) The system as described in claim 8, wherein  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  correspond to wavelengths in the vicinity of 1550 nm.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new) A system as defined in claim 2 comprising means for modulating said first and second monochromatic lasers when the first and second monochromatic lasers are lasing by a very low frequency signal whereby Stimulated Brillouin Scattering of the amplified combined signals is reduced.

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